Committee of the Whole November 8, 2023 Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology 1605 Wentworth Ave. Calumet City, IL 60409 MINUTES



1. Welcome

President Stepp called the committee of the whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson Absent: none

2. Communication/Public Comment

A. Interim Superintendent Robinzine, on behalf of the administrative team, thanked the board of education for their service in advance of board member day and welcomed Mr. Townsend as a new member. He acknowledged the Center team for the banners hung in the building as a great message for students.

3. Buildings/Grounds--Member Townsend

- A. Summer 2024 Roof Projects—Mr. Stephan shared the request to go out for bid will be on the November 28th agenda for board approval.
- B. Building Usage Report—no additional rentals
- C. Discussion included the status of TFS football project and Mr. Stephan stated the field is done and waiting for a warmup to finish the track.

4. Safety Committee--Member Stepp

A. Student Safety Walking to School—Discussion included if students are walking when they should be taking the bus recognizing that some students could be on the threshold of not bus qualified. Some students who have been caught with weapons sometimes say it is because they don't feel safe on their way to school. Administration will have conversations with police departments to see if there are areas needing focus; will look at disciplines to see what areas are impacted and survey students to get their direct input. There are apps for safety that may be useful tools. It is important to encourage students to communicate when they are not feeling safe.

5. Finance Committee--Member Jackson

A. 2023 Levy Year—Ms. Bishop presented the framework for the 2023 levy which is \$34 million of the budget coming from local funds. She reviewed timelines and shared the amount of the property tax relief grant has to be levied but it goes directly to the taxpayers. There is a decrease in debt service because the district has paid off three bonds. The district always requests much more than what is received because the district could lose money if it doesn't levy enough.

6. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard

A. School Report Card Data—Ms. Szuba reviewed data from the district perspective clarifying some of the indicators such as chronic absenteeism is a combination of excused or unexcused and climate survey rating is based on participation level. One of the immediate easy ways to move to excellent is increase the completion rate of the climate survey.

Highlights included that science proficiency increased 9%; DLM students have exceeded the state average in ELA for the last two years; the district has reduced the chronic absentee rate; the district is above the state average graduation rate. She added that areas of concern/focus is the district is not seeing proficiency on testing but that will be hard to compare because the state is changing the test. Administration is doing a deeper look at the data including are there specific groups of students who are struggling? The district will continue articulation with feeder schools focusing on trends they are seeing; offer advance courses in math in summer; look at data regarding freshmen on track including focusing on chronic absenteeism/meetings with families.

- B. Curriculum Guide—Ms. Szuba shared the document is the course selection guide for students. The district will be offering AP African American studies at both campuses. Additionally, administration is looking at restructuring extended time because it doesn't seem to be effective.
- C. First Quarter Grades—Principals spoke about grades and stressed a focus on what can be done in classrooms working with division leaders and meeting with individual teachers who have higher rates of failure. It is important to look carefully if grades are based on compliance vs. content knowledge. Team is monitoring JASI program effectiveness. All campuses are having important conversations with freshmen about earning credits vs. sitting in class and being passed to next level.
- D. Chicago State University MOU—Mr. Robinzine shared the district wants to start off small and make sure there are adequate enrollment numbers. The program is starting in the spring with advanced Spanish course. Discussion included making sure CSU credit is transferable.
- E. Addition of TFS Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach—Administration is requesting adding another assistant coach at TFS dedicated to girls wrestling. Impacts supervision issues if multiple events are simultaneous. The interest continues to increase.

7.IT Committee--Member Wilson

- A. Managed Security Service Provider Agreement—Mr. Wakefield stated it is necessary for the district to consider agreement. It goes beyond Crowdstrike and provides 24/7 monitoring which is customized for the district. There is a one-time fee and yearly fees. Funds are allocated to support implementation.
- B. Board Cell Phones for District Business—President Stepp introduced the topic saying it is important to keep board business separate from personal. Based on discussion, many board members stated they did not want another phone and recognized the implication of using their personal phones. There was discussion about the board president having one if she/he choses to. Administration will present a change in policy regarding choosing internet access reimbursement or a cell phone.

8. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman

- A. 2023 5 Essentials Survey Results—Dr. Whitten shared the district is making progress and is responding to areas of concern. One of the biggest challenges is getting responses. The buildings analyze the data as a team. It is a long survey taking about 20 minutes.
- B. Student Suspension Interventions—Dr. Whitten introduced the assistant principals who talked about increased visibility, parent communication including interpreter, relationships with students, safe spaces for students and many additional supports. They noted the conflict resolutions specialist has been a great addition and added that some of the issues are inherited from feeder schools. They are acknowledging quarter perfect attendance and hosting several community/parent buy-in activities. Discussion included the contingencies in

place when the deans' assistants DAs are out including the substitute deans' assistants and all hands on deck. Each campus is working on action plans to address attendance issues.

C. Peer Advisory Council—Have recruited students and a consultant will train the students.

9. Policy Committee--Member Newman

A. PRESS 113 Update—Ms. Newman stated she reviewed the policies being proposed and there are no significant updates other than those generated by changes in laws.

10. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. This motion, made by Member Terrazas and seconded by Member Wilson, passed on voice vote.

President

Recording Secretary